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Israeli plan to divide Jerusalem into Arab, Jewish districts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A plan has been introduced to divide Jerusalem into dozens of Jewish and Arab districts with limited self-government, raising opposition from Israeli right wingers who fear it is a step toward Palestinian autonomy. City officials confirmed Friday that a planning committee approved the plan for elected neighbourhood councils earlier this week. It could be voted on in the city council as early as Sunday and passage is expected. Occupied Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek supports the proposal for the neighbourhood councils, said his spokeswoman, Bonnie Doser. Mr. Kolek has always talked about the concept of functional autonomy. This has nothing to do with sovereignty, he has to do with running a heterogeneous city, she said. Under the plan, each district is to elect local administrators who would be given a budget to dispense some services and be represented on the city's planning committees. "The idea is to give some kind of municipal autonomy to all neighbourhoods," said city councilman Moshe Amirav of the left wing Ateretz bloc, a key backer of the plan.

French president begins visit to Amman

King welcomes French role in peace process

Mitterrand praises Jordan's will for peace

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Welcoming French President Francois Mitterrand as "honoured guest in Jordan," His Majesty King Hussein said Friday that Jordan looks forward to an active French participation in achieving peace, security and development in the Middle East.

Speaking at a state banquet in honour of the visiting French president and his accompanying delegation, King Hussein described the Arab-Israeli peace talks as a "unique opportunity (that must not) elude us," saying that Jordan welcomes the efforts of friendly countries in the search for peace in the region.

"We welcome the contribution (to the peace process) of friendly countries, especially those which bear special responsibility towards maintaining world peace and security in accordance with the United Nations Charter."

President Mitterrand arrived in Amman Friday in a two-day visit "aimed at consolidating peace efforts in the region and reaffirming the role of the European Community and France in the peace process," according to French Ambassador in Amman Denis Bauchard.

The president, his wife and the accompanying delegation were received at the airport by King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Ali Ben

Al Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament and senior Jordanian officials.

Mr. Mitterrand was greeted with a red carpet-welcome and a 21-gun salute.

King Hussein and President Mitterrand later held a one-hour closed door meeting during which they discussed the role of France and Europe in advancing the Middle East peace talks, Jordan Television reported.

Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that King Hussein and President Mitterrand also discussed bilateral relations in economic, cultural and political fields.

"The visit of Mr. Mitterrand is an indication of his interest in Jordan as well as the peace process," Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber told the Jordan Times Friday.

Dr. Abu Jaber said President Mitterrand will try to speed up the peace process, an effort that reflects the "seriousness with which France views the situation in the Middle East."

Describing the visit of Mr. Mitterrand as an "event in itself," Dr. Abu Jaber, who Friday discussed the "Middle East peace process, and French-Jordanian relations in a meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, said President Mitterrand understands the intricacies of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the centrality of the Palestinian problem to it.

Reaffirming Jordan's commitment to the attainment of peace in the region, King Hussein said that world peace will remain incomplete and "international legitimacy lacking until our region enjoys a just, comprehensive and lasting peace."

He said Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands and its persistence in denying the Palestinian people their rights to self-determination are the fundamental causes of the absence of Mideast peace.

"Israel's illegal practices against the Palestinians on the one hand, and its unrealistic and unforthcoming stands in the ongoing peace negotiations on

the other, cast shadows of doubt about the possibility of achieving the objective of peace," King Hussein said in his speech at the banquet.

King Hussein said despite changes in attitude by both parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, there is still a need for greater effort to appreciate the importance of the peace talks which he described as the "last available opportunity."

Reiterating Jordan's support for the Palestinians, "respect for their independent decision under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), their sole legitimate representative," King Hussein said peace in

the region can only be achieved on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 242 "whose implementation constitutes the very purpose of the ongoing peace process."

President Mitterrand reiterated France's support for the right "of all peoples and all countries, and by that I mean the Israeli people and the Palestinian people, to live within secure and defined borders."

He said France supports a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, adding that peace will be fragile if the Palestinian

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Sudan rebel chief says peace talks put off

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese rebel chief John Garang said Friday peace talks scheduled to resume next month had been put off because of conditions imposed by the Khartoum government. The talks have been put off by the Sudanese military leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir's government. Mr. Garang, leader of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), told reporters in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. Peace talks were due to open on Dec. 5 in Abuja, the Nigerian capital. A first round of Nigerian-brokered talks on ending Sudan's nine-year civil war ended inconclusively in Abuja in June. Delaying the resumption of talks will be a major blow to efforts to end the war between the Islamic fundamentalist government in the north and the mainly black Christian SPLA in the south. There was no immediate comment from the government. Sudanese officials in Abuja said on Wednesday the Khartoum government was ready to attend talks. Mr. Garang said Gen. Bashir had told Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi last week and the British Broadcasting Corporation in an interview his government wanted to rival splinter groups of the SPLA as well as his own faction to attend the talks.

France reaffirms support for Palestinian state

TEL AVIV (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand has bluntly reaffirmed his support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and for a Palestinian state.

But Mr. Mitterrand acceded to an Israeli request to stay out of direct Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and instead provide an economic incentive to rebuild a peaceful Middle East.

"I seem to recall that a Palestinian state was recognised by the United Nations about that here," Mr. Mitterrand told a news conference Thursday after two days of talks with Israeli leaders.

When the Jewish state was established in 1948, the proposed Palestinian state "was left high and dry," he said. "But it has the same right."

He said he had reminded his hosts of "the existence of the PLO, which until now has appeared to be the only valid partner...no other real force has appeared on the political horizon."

Mr. Mitterrand endorsed Israel's proposal for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but said it was up to the Palestinians to decide how they settled the balance of power between the occupied territories and the PLO in Tunis.

He said Paris would propose that the European Community (EC) set aside a fund of up to one billion Ecus (\$1.23 billion) to support joint economic development projects in the region.

It could be used to develop water resources, transport links, trade and tourism.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said after a two-day meeting with Mr. Mitterrand that dif-

ferences of opinion would not prevent Israel and France working together.

"I believe this visit will serve as a landmark in opening a new chapter, a much better one, in the relationship between France and Israel," he told reporters.

He praised Mr. Mitterrand's call for Palestinians to take a step-by-step approach to building peace and urged him to try to convince Palestinian leaders to negotiate seriously.

In occupied Jerusalem Mr. Mitterrand pledged 20 million francs (\$4 million) in aid to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi told reporters Thursday.

She said President Mitterrand also promised Arab leaders from the territories that France was willing to provide training for 100 Palestinians.

Mr. Mitterrand, who is on a state visit to Israel, made the pledges at a meeting with four leading West Bank Palestinians at the French consulate in West Jerusalem.

Faisal Al Hussein, the prominent nationalist leader in the occupied territories, said after the meeting he had urged France and the European Community to become more involved in Middle East peace negotiations.

Mr. Hussein is overall head of the Palestinian delegation negotiating with Israel in Washington but is not allowed to attend the talks because he is a resident of Israeli-annexed Arab East Jerusalem.

Asked about France's denial of (Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein Friday receives French President Francois Mitterrand at Queen Alia International Airport (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Warlord backs U.S. offer to send troops to Somalia

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — A top warlord on Friday welcomed a U.S. offer to send 30,000 troops to Somalia, but apparently believed their goal was to help his efforts to rule, not be part of an expanded U.N. force.

In an hour-long news conference, Gen. Mohamed Farrah Aidid expressed optimism about how U.S. involvement would help restore Somalia and aid his efforts to govern through his Somali National Alliance (SNA).

The Los Angeles Times and CBS radio, meanwhile, reported Friday that U.S. ships carrying 2,000 marines were sailing up the Indian Ocean toward Somalia.

Captain Ken Larson, a spokesman for the U.S. central command in Tampa, Fla., declined to discuss the report. "You just don't talk about force movement," Mr. Larson said.

Mr. Aidid seemed to think that the American initiative was separate from the ongoing United Nations involvement, and repeatedly criticised U.N. efforts calling them a "disaster failure."

"We believe that the new initiative announced by the government of the United States, together with the political platform developed by the SNA, can put Somalia on solid ground from which to prosper economically, politically and socially," Mr. Aidid said.

"We believe the American move will solve our political, economic and social problems," he said. "The United Nations has failed to save the unity of Somalia, the reconciliation process and the recovery programme."

The United States Wednesday offered to send up to 30,000 troops to Somalia to work under U.N. auspices in an expanded international force to protect relief efforts and help feed the starving.

Officials said the force would use force if necessary to get food to the hungry.

But Brig. Gen. Imtiaz Shabane, commander of the 500 strong U.N. force in Somalia, said in an interview broadcast Thursday on British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television that sending in the marines will

strain already tense relations with warlords.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has made no decision on the offer, which reportedly will be among items the U.N. Security Council considers next week when it deliberates an expanded role in Somalia.

Meanwhile Italian actress Sophia Loren added her voice on Thursday to growing calls for major international action to protect food convoys and restore peace in the "hell we call Somalia."

"The United Nations cannot do it alone. The international community has the power to bring peace to Somalia. I only pray that it finds the political will to do so," Ms. Loren said.

She was speaking at a news conference at the end of her visit to Africa as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Asked whether she would support a direct international military intervention in Somalia to stop warlords hampering world relief efforts, the actress added: "It's up to the United Nations Security Council. We need peace, so that humanitarian convoys can reach those in need before we lose an entire generation of children, if we have not already."

By U.N. estimates, more than 300,000 Somalis already have died this year from the combined effects of drought and warfare and another 2 million are threatened.

Deep insecurity has gripped the Horn of Africa nation since the rebel overthrow of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991, crippling international efforts to feed the starving.

Ports and roads are unusable because of banditry and attacks. Some aid officials estimate as much as half the approximately 200,000 metric tonnes of food and supplies delivered to Somalia this year has been stolen.

Mr. Aidid, whose forces have been blamed for much of the banditry and looting, reluctantly agreed to allow the United Nations to bring in troops.

Venezuela says rebels surrender, nine killed in coup attempt

CARACAS (R) — The Venezuelan government said Friday it had put down a coup attempt by rebel soldiers who bombed the presidential palace in their uprising and the coup leaders had surrendered.

But witnesses said gunfire was still heard in several parts of the capital and it appeared some rebels were still fighting.

Interior Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz said in a televised statement the leaders of the coup attempt, the second this year in oil-rich Venezuela, turned themselves into authorities about six hours after they launched their uprising.

"I want to inform the country that the principal leaders of the rebels have surrendered. They have turned themselves in to the authorities," Mr. Pinerua said. He did not provide any details.

Up to nine people were reported dead in the fighting which broke out at dawn with the rebels

takeover of a major television station.

At about 5:30 a.m. (0930 GMT) the station broadcast a videotaped message from Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez Frias, leader of a February uprising. He announced a new coup attempt and called on Venezuelans to take to the streets in support of the overthrow.

Following the broadcast, three men, one in military uniform, made what appeared to be a live statement on state television, also calling for help from all Venezuelans.

The trio said they belonged to the Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement (MBR-200), which they described as a civilian military group.

"We call on all the people to come out on the street so that we can finish once and for all with this usurper government," said the man in uniform, who was not identified.

Shooting immediately broke out and continued for hours around the Miraflores presidential complex.

An aircraft under rebel command dropped a bomb on the palace complex, damaging the upper floors of the administrative building, a Reuters journalist inside the complex said.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez was in another building in the complex and was not hurt. The 70-year-old president survived an earlier coup attempt on February 4.

About 1,000 civilians marched toward the palace in support of the rebels, but they dispersed when police fired teargas at the crowd. Several cars and shops were set ablaze in the streets around the palace.

Military sources said loyal troops had shot down two U.S.-made aircraft in rebel hands.

U.N. petition accuses Kuwait of murder, torture, summary execution

NEW YORK — In a petition to be filed with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on Dec. 3, an Arab-American family charges the Kuwaiti government with summary execution, torture and a campaign of egregious human rights violations against non-citizens of Kuwait following the Gulf War.

In their U.N. petition, the Farhat family describes how on March 3, 1991, shortly after the Kuwaiti government was restored to power, a Kuwaiti soldier shot and killed Ismail Farhat and his son, Osama, and raped and shot his daughter, Naimat.

The Farhats, Lebanese citizens who had lived in Kuwait for over 30 years, worked actively with the Kuwaiti underground during the Iraqi occupation, but were victimised by a gross campaign of violent abuses directed against non-citizens living in Kuwait at the time of the Iraqi invasion.

The Farhats' U.N. petition asks for an investigation of the whole pattern of human rights abuses, as well as of the attack on the

world community to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait. Now the world community must insist that Kuwait respect international law in its treatment of people living under its rule."

The U.N. petition charges that the Kuwaiti government has violated fundamental principles of international human rights law, including summary execution and torture, discrimination based on national origin and sex-based discrimination.

Ms. Stephens noted that the Farhats have made repeated attempts to contact the Kuwaiti government but despite the support of members of U.S. Congress and the U.S. embassy in Kuwait, the Kuwaiti government refuses to respond. "They ignore our letters, deny that the crime ever took place, and once even insisted that it couldn't be true because 'rape is not our way.' We filed the U.N. action because it's long past time that they began to take their international law obligations seriously," she said.

(Centre for Constitutional Rights)

Tribal, traditional politics dominate Karak elections

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Tribal and traditional politics are expected to shape the outcome of today's municipal elections in the southern city of Karak, while political affiliation will play a backstage role.

Twenty candidates vie for the eleven seats on the Karak Municipal Council. Of the twenty, eleven are running under the "Karak list," while six are being fielded by the "Solidarity list." Three candidates are running independently.

While neither list has a clearly defined political stance, the Solidarity list is considered to be closer to representing pan-Arabs, liberals and

alliances have shifted. While two Christian candidates sit on the solidarity list, one Christian and two Palestinians are on the Karak list. Although neither the Muslim Brotherhood nor independent Islamists have officially nominated candidates, they do have influence in the Karak list, political activists who live in Karak told the Jordan Times this weekend.

Abdullah Majali, a prominent member of the Muslim Brotherhood in Karak and a member of the powerful Majali clan is a driving force behind the Karak list, although he is not on it.

Thus "we consider the Karak list has the support of the Brotherhood," said a seasoned observer in Karak Friday.

With more consensus among tribes and clans, than during the legislative race in 1989, the people in Karak agreed to have "primaries." Almost every major tribe or clan in Karak has consolidated its efforts to field one candidate. Some clans have come to an agreement with others that they will give their support for a given candidate from a given tribe in return for support for their candidate in the 1993 legislative elections. "It is a quid pro quo," said one activist from Karak.

Neither list is claiming it can pull off a complete victory for its group. However, at least three of the Solidarity list's six candidates are expected to win seats on the council, say observers. Meanwhile, four of those on the Karak list are also assured seats on the council, according to supporters.

There are an estimated 11,000 voters registered for today's elections. Some of these registered live in the villages outside Karak and many of them are not expected to vote. While the municipal elections, unlike the legislative, are restricted to the townspeople of

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Turkey poised for new blow against Kurd rebels

ANKARA (AP) — After smashing the Turkish Kurdish rebel strongholds in northern Iraq with the help of the Iraqi Kurds, Turkey is working to make its victory last while facing an increasing Kurdish challenge at home.

"We are going to destroy their roots," General Dogan Gores, the general staff chief, said last week.

In an unusual alliance, the Iraqi Kurds turned on their ethnic relatives in Turkey in a joint offensive with Turkey in October. The Iraqi Kurds need Turkey's support for their de facto state, a consideration which outweighed ethnic ties.

Shortly after, 15,000 Turkish troops, backed by jets, helicopters and tanks crossed the border to capture the mountain bases the rebels of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) have been using to attack Turkish targets.

Gen. Gores said that of the estimated 7,000 insurgents entrenched along the 331-kilometre (205 mile) border, troops and Iraqi Kurdish guerrillas killed 1,800 and wounded 1,000.

Another 1,700 were interned by the Iraqi Kurds at the end of the month-long fighting. They were moved away to camps near Iran.

The rest, Gen. Gores said, had mostly slipped into Syria, Iran and Turkey, though some small bands were still roaming the mountains.

Turkish military officials said nearly 5,000 Kalashnikovs, two air-to-surface missiles, hundreds of machineguns and anti-aircraft guns, rocket launchers and large caches of ammunition and food stocks had been seized in captured camps.

Osman Ocaltan, the PKK commander, was among those moved to near Iran. Abdullah Ocaltan, his brother and PKK's supreme leader, is believed to be in Syria despite its security agreement with Turkey.

Turkey is partly depending on Iraqi Kurds to keep out the rebels, who have been fighting for

self rule in southeastern Turkey since 1984. They moved into northern Iraq after the Gulf war.

The Iraqi Kurds, to move into place a 6,000 strong force to police the border, sought Turkey's help to resettle 350 villages whose inhabitants had been scared away by the PKK, said a senior Iraqi Kurdish official travelling through Ankara Wednesday. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Turkey had pledged to help set up 65 military posts to be manned by the Kurdish fighters. "But, there will be a natural liaison with Turkish soldiers," the official said.

Iraqi Kurds reportedly have promised to disarm the PKK and keep it at a safe distance.

Turkish officials in Ankara were privately skeptical that the Iraqi Kurds had disarmed all the PKK fighters. A private Turkish television station showed scenes from the internment camp in which the insurgents were seen carrying Kalashnikov rifles.

Osman Ocaltan told the television that they retained their freedom, and that they had merely carried out a "tactical retreat."

Meanwhile, the Turkish incursion promoted worries among the Iraqi Kurds about a permanent stay.

A statement by Premier Suleyman Demirel that the "border was drawn wrong...it should have passed south of the mountains" fueled Kurdish fears.

To set their minds at ease, the Turkish Foreign Ministry sent two envoys to Iraqi Kurdish leaders Massoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani with assurances against a long stay.

Turkey has already pulled back an armoured unit rushed in to cut the escape route of the insurgents. Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin also said two weeks ago that the withdrawal would be complete shortly.

The Iraqi Kurdish official in Ankara said he expected the withdrawal to be over within weeks.

Turkey still faces military

opposition at home. By official estimates, there are 4,000 PKK guerrillas inside the country.

Guerrillas are backed by a large "militia" of part time fighters assisting in attacks on towns. They also boast rising popular support. The funerals for slain rebels often turn into violent anti-government riots.

Efforts to appease the Kurds with cultural rights are defeated by murders of local politicians and journalists supporting the rebels. Kurds blame the secret police.

Facing the rebel strength are some 100,000 troops and police commandos, as well as some 30,000 Kurdish village guards armed and paid by the government.

The anti-insurgent campaign has caused fears of ethnic friction between Turks and about 12 million Kurds who make one-fifth of Turkey's population.

Heavy army casualties from PKK attacks — over 5,000 people have died on both sides — have caused anti-Kurdish demonstrations and harassment of Kurds living in major cities in western Turkey.

Despite PKK accusations of treason, Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani want to consolidate the alliance with Turkey to survive an Iraqi food and fuel blockade.

Turkey has leverage on the Iraqi Kurdish administration for two reasons: It is the main source for supplies and transit for Western aid, and the Western Air Force protecting the Kurds from an Iraqi attack is based in Turkey.

The government has hinted that the force's mandate, expiring in December, will be extended although the parliament has the final say.

But Turkey remains cool to the Iraqi Kurds' aspirations for a federal state, backed by Iran and Syria which also have Kurdish minorities. Meeting in Ankara on Nov. 14, foreign ministers of the three countries opposed "steps that might endanger the unity of Iraq."

Iraq: Mitterrand to share fate of all foes

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Friday French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Israel was an effort to preserve his "shaky throne" at home.

"Fire has been devouring Iraq's enemies...and it is now burning Mitterrand's feet," said Al Thawra, the ruling Baath Party newspaper, in an article signed by President Saddam Hussein's head of protocol.

"He is pleading, using all means, to satisfy Zionism to strengthen his trembling throne

in the remainder of his presidency," said the article written by Abdul Wadud Al Sheikhly, head of protocol in the presidential office.

Baghdad's official press has previously said God inflicted censure on Mitterrand to punish him for his aggression in the Gulf war.

In an interview with the Jordanian newspaper Al Dustour published Friday, Mr. Mitterrand blamed the suffering of the Iraqi people under U.N. sanctions on the Baghdad government.

He told the newspaper sanc-

tions against Iraq would only be lifted when the government decided to respect all the U.N. resolutions applied to it.

France was a main pillar in the U.S.-led multinational force that drove Iraqi occupation troops from Kuwait in February 1991.

Mr. Thawra also criticised Mr. Mitterrand, who spent Wednesday and Thursday in Israel, for speaking out against the Arab economic boycott of the Jewish state, which it said was "effective and disturbing to the Zionist entity."

Denktash threatens to quit Cyprus talks if forced to sign settlement

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said Friday he would resign if he was forced to sign a Cyprus settlement based on U.N. Security Council lines.

"If anyone tried to force me to sign such an agreement, of course I will not and if necessary I shall certainly resign," he told Reuters in the Turkish sector of divided Nicosia.

Mr. Denktash was reacting to a Council resolution adopted Wednesday which said he was mostly to blame for the failure of U.N.-sponsored talks with Cyprus President George Vassiliou.

It said the New York talks failed largely because Mr. Denktash did not accept "ideas on the outline of a settlement presented by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali."

"The only good thing that

came out of the last session is the fact that the position of both sides are now on paper," Mr. Denktash said, adding that Dr. Ghali's report preceding the resolution showed that "disturbance between the two sides is too deep."

"If so, and it is so, how can anyone expect these people (Turkish and Greek Cypriots) to come together under a federal roof at this stage?"

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops occupied the northern third of the island after a coup, engineering by the military junta then ruling Greece, toppled the government in Nicosia. The Turkish Cypriots proclaimed their own republic in 1975, with Denktash as president, but it is recognised only by Ankara.

Under the (secretary-general's) report and the latest

Council resolution...25,000 to 30,000 Greek Cypriots will cross to the Turkish Cypriot north, thus creating the conditions of insecurity, friction which ultimately will end in disaster," Mr. Denktash said.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel challenged the Greek Cypriots Thursday to guarantee peace on the island if Turkey withdrew its 30,000 troops in the north.

Mr. Denktash rejects Dr. Ghali's proposals which he says would return displaced Greek Cypriots to their former homes in the north but dislodge about 40,000 Turkish Cypriots if applied in full.

He insists on limited sovereignty for the two states of the envisaged federation, constitutional rights for Turkey, political equality and a rotating presidency.



MUSTARD GAS DESTROYED: Picture taken from Iraqi TV shows members of a U.N. chemical team controlling the destruction of some 1,000 litres of mustard gas in Al Muthanna, 130 kilometres north west of Baghdad (AFP photo)

Iranian minister abandons Sarajevo visit

ZAGREB (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati failed to visit Sarajevo after being told by officials that all flights to the Bosnian capital had been cancelled.

"I was told by the officials in Croatia and Bosnia that all flights have been cancelled since Wednesday when a French plane was shot at in Sarajevo," Mr. Velayati told reporters in Zagreb Thursday evening before leaving for Tehran.

Mr. Velayati, who arrived in Croatia Wednesday, said he had hoped to catch a U.N. relief flight into Sarajevo to see the situation in the city, besieged by Serb forces.

But he did not manage to board any of the outgoing planes Thursday and the reason remained unclear.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) briefly suspended aid flights into Sarajevo after a French plane was hit by a solitary bullet Wednesday.

UNHCR relief planes, including German, British, French and Canadian aircraft, flew Thursday to Sarajevo without any problems, official sources in Zagreb said.

Although he said Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic had personally told him on the telephone that flights to Sarajevo were cancelled, Mr. Velayati expressed suspicion that some Western governments had prevented his trip.

"Maybe the Western countries denied me a flight to Sarajevo because Iran is against this internationalisation, specifically from the West, regarding the massacres committed against Muslims and Croats in Bosnia," he said.

UNHCR sources said that Mr. Velayati had been scheduled to fly to the Bosnian capital Wednesday morning but he had arrived in Croatia in the late afternoon.

"A Jordanian plane could have taken him in today (Thursday) but it decided not to fly at all, so then why should some other Western plane take him, especially at such a short notice without any security guarantees?" a senior official said.

According to UNHCR and U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) rules for boarding a relief flight, a diplomat must ask permission from the government which owns the plane.

West to take new steps on Libya over Lockerbie

PARIS (R) — The United States, France and Britain will take new steps to enforce sanctions against Libya over its alleged involvement in the downing of an American and a French airliner, the French Foreign Ministry said Friday.

France has also demanded more Libyan cooperation in its investigation into the downing of a DC-10 belonging to the French company UTA which exploded over the Sahara Desert in September 1989.

A total of 441 people were killed in the two attacks.

"The United States, France and the United Kingdom, in conjunction with all members of the International Community will continue to watch Libya's moves closely," the statement said.

"The Libyan government would be making a grave mistake if it put the (U.N.) resolution in doubt."

The U.N. was expected to review the sanctions against Libya in mid-December and has threatened to widen the embargo if Tripoli does not comply with its demands.

Iranian official defends arms purchases

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Deputy foreign minister Friday defended his country's arms purchases, but denied reports that Tehran was seeking nuclear weapons, the state radio reported.

Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Ali Akbar Besharati as saying, "our neighbours have concluded military pacts with the big powers, and still continue to equip themselves with advanced military weapons. Then why shouldn't we restore our lost arms?"

Mr. Besharati was speaking before the weekly prayer session at Tehran University. It is rare for non-clerics, like Mr. Besharati, to address the worshippers, who usually get a political discourse from a senior clergyman before the group prayer.

The purchase of two Russian built submarines has made Iran the only country in the Gulf with underwater warfare capability.

Washington and its Arab allies say the subs have tilted the balance of naval power in the region in revolutionary Iran's favour.

The kilo-class subs, one of which was delivered earlier this month, and a second is still under construction, are part of Iran's ambitious rearmament program.

me. The Iranians have been incensed by reports that criticise weapons purchases of Iran, but not of countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, whose defence budgets are much higher than Iran's.

With the exception of Iraq, Gulf Arab countries have access to advanced Western weapons. But Iran, which is denied Western technology under an arms embargo in place since the 1980 war with Iraq, has had to settle for mostly Russian, North Korean, or Chinese weaponry, most of it outdated.

Iranian officials argue that they need weapons to replenish stocks seriously depleted in the war.

"Our weapons are not comparable with the military resources of the region qualitatively and quantitatively," Mr. Besharati said.

CIA Director Robert Gates told the Associated Press last week that Iran had set aside "substantial hard currency" for future arms purchases.

He put Iran on a shortlist of potential trouble spots, and said the Iranians could pose a threat to the United States and its allies in three to five years.

Vassiliou seek reelection

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus President George Vassiliou announced Friday he would seek a second five-year term in presidential elections on Feb. 7.

Mr. Vassiliou, 61, announced his candidacy two days after the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution on Cyprus following

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN E

Bangladeshis demand Gulf job

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 10,000 Bangladeshis who fled Iraq because of the Gulf War staged demonstration in Dhaka to demand their employment abroad, witnesses said. The protesters, a quarter of the 62,000 Bangladeshis affected had fled new jobs in Kuwait, and none in Iraq. They blame the Bangladesh government's indifference. "We are of death but the government is doing virtually nothing," Ali Ashraf Khan, leader of the Kuwaiti Association, told the rally. He said the government persuade Kuwait to compensate them "as promise Nations." All those attending the rally outside government secretariat came stripped to the waist, their demands on their bare chests. "We are exposed you can see our ribs. We are hungry and need to survive," said Abdul Jalil, who worked in Kuwait.

S. Korean deputy minister to v

SEOUL (AP) — South Korean Vice Foreign Chang-Hee will visit Egypt in early December to full diplomatic relations between the two countries. Mr. Roe will visit Cairo Dec. 7-11 for talks on upgrading relations of the two countries to ambassadorial level, the Foreign Ministry said. The two countries exchanged general consulates in last year. Egypt has been reluctant to open formal because of its close military ties with Communists. Before visiting Cairo, Mr. Roe also will visit San S-7, the officials said.

Cypriot foreign minister hospit

ATHENS (R) — Cypriot Foreign Minister George Vassiliou said in Athens after suffering a heart attack. Mr. Vassiliou told a news conference. Mr. Vassiliou expected to attend the news conference following political leaders in Athens. Mr. Vassiliou said a doctor minister after he complained he was unwell central Athens hospital. Mr. Vassiliou and Mr. Vassiliou's visit to Athens to discuss the latest United Nations initiative to reunite the island of Cyprus. Cyprus has been 1974, when Turkish troops occupied the north after coup in Nicosia, engineered by the military junta in Greece.

Kuwait may build border fence

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait may build a fence on the border to keep out Iraqi infiltrators, a Kuwaiti newspaper said. A Kuwaiti newspaper said. "The government will take any measures, whether through a security force, or through a fence, to make people feel at ease," it said. It said the government was expected to diminish a Boundary Demarcation Commission has complete installing markers along the border. But U.N. said still not withdrawn policemen from posts it set up side before the boundary commission fixed a definite line. Mr. Vassiliou said he would visit Iraq to military cooperation. The Italian Air Force took war to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait last year.

Maghreb states seek funds for

RABAT (R) — International experts met in Morocco to discuss financing a 7,400-kilometre motorway from Nouakchott in Mauritania to Timbuktu. Moroccan Public Works Minister Mohammed El-Mechi said the project would cost \$1.5 billion and take 30 years to build. It would link the five states of the Maghreb Union (AMU) — Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Libya — who plan to integrate their economies create a common market. Mr. Kabbaj said the motorway would be the only one for 470 kilometres Mauritania. He said 173 kilometres existed already 294 kilometres were under construction. "AMU is not having sufficient resources to finance this great taking steps to obtain international and regional Kabbaj said. The AMU also plans to build a North-Capable of taking high-speed trains.

3 beheaded for murder in S. A

RIYADH (AP) — Two Bengalis and a Sudanese beheaded Friday after Islamic courts convicted them of the state-run radio reported. The Sudanese, B. Mohammed, beheaded in Jeddah, was found guilty death Egyptian Ali Ibn Ali Tawil as he was coming and robbing his money. Nasreddin Haji Rajab, a Bengali, backed to death Saudi national Khalid Al-Behaded in Qassim. Mohammad Akhbaruddin was Taif for breaking the neck of Sudanese Abdullah Saeed with an iron rod. Saudi Arabia is ruled under codes that prescribe beheading by the sword murderers. The beheadings are carried out in adjacent to mosques following the Muslim noon particularly on Fridays.

Moroccans pray for rain

RABAT (R) — Moroccans went out to pray for answer to a call from King Hassan as drought in country's farms. The meteorological service in Casablanca said the last 12 months had been less than half with 209 millimetres (8.2 inches) compared to the average (18.2 inches). As a result, this year's cereal harvest is million tonnes compared to last year's record 8.5 million tonnes. The usual autumn rains needed for farmers to plant and sow cereals have been sparse, with 31 mm (1.2 inches) in September and October compared to 45 mm (1.8 inches) period last year. The cereal season runs from June.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Les Aventures du Boco.
18:25	Eurovision Special
19:00	News in French
19:15	Footage sur
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	
21:00	America's Funniest Home Videos
21:30	Prospectives
22:00	Varieties
22:30	News in English
22:50	Future Film: "The Boat"
PRAYER TIMES	
06:49	Fajr
08:10	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:23	Dhuhr
14:12	"Asr
16:36	Maghrib
17:57	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 628224, 694922	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
A rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be southeasterly moderate, changing in the afternoon to southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	0/12
Aqaba	10/21
Jericho	-3/14
Jordan Valley	2/22
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 18, Humidity readings:	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Abas Al Kakin	883446
Dr. Abdul Kadir Al Lala	690408
Dr. Mokles Halesah	819220
Dr. Bahjat Bader	849362
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Azam pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	626272
Al Sultan pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
St. Joseph pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmed Bishawi	773925
Al Quds Pharmacy (-)	
ZARQA:	
Dr. Yahya Al Tamei	981502
Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.	
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630241
Rescue Police	192, 661111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	603800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Regain	623101
Abdullah Telephone Regain	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-33200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-33200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Al-Khalil Maternity, J. Amn	652412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mahmud, J. Amman	636140
Al-Bashir, J. Amman	891617/5
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Munster Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abadi	666127/57
Al-Abi, Abadi	664164/6
Al-Bashir, J. Amman	771015/5
Army, Marfa	891617/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	097983323
Zarqa National Hospital	097900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	097986732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital	09790990
IRBID:	
Prince Hassan Hospital	022775555
Greek Catholic Hospital	022772775
Rm Al Nafes Hospital	022747100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	03314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)3200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:30	Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
06:40	Cairo (RJ)

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1972.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 6671716, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Push for peace

FRENCH PRESIDENT Francois Mitterrand's trip to the Middle East is no ordinary visit. The French leader came to Israel and Jordan not only to implore the parties to the peace process to push harder for peace but to tell the world in general and the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict in particular of two fundamental elements vital to the ongoing peace negotiations. First, that Europe has a pivotal role to achieve peace in the area; and secondly, that Europe, and especially France, views peace in the region as vital to the interests of Europe, the Middle East and the world at large.

The reminder of Europe's indispensable role in the search for peace and stability in the region is not only in keeping with the traditional and historic ties between Western Europe and the Middle East but also in harmony with the end of the cold war and the emergence, at least for the moment, of a uni-polar world. France, a superpower in its own right and a leader within the European Community, needs to play an active and more assertive role in reshaping the world following the collapse of the Soviet Union and in defining the parameters of the so-called new world order. France's push for a greater voice in the quest for just peace and profound stability in the region should be looked at within this context. A stable and peaceful Middle East will only enhance Europe's unity and security thus contributing to Europe assuming a greater and more constructive role in the "new world order."

As far as peace in this region is concerned, Mr. Mitterrand's reference to the pertinent United Nations resolutions that call for the creation of an independent Palestinian state aims to foreclose any lingering doubts over French support for this objective, whether emanating from Israel or other Western powers. It also aims to advance the centre of gravity in the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks from the issue of Palestinian statehood and recognition to the formulation of the most effective ways to accomplish this goal. In this vein, President Mitterrand exhorted the Palestinians, during talks with their representatives in Jerusalem Thursday, to yield to the logic of proceeding one step at a time in their determination to obtain their national aspirations. In this context, the French leader counselled the Palestinian leadership that he met in Jerusalem Thursday to shed away the self-defeating tactic of "all or nothing."

Mr. Mitterrand spoke with historic perception and deep commitment to the future of the Middle East. His words of counsel to both Arabs and Israelis will not fall on deaf ears but will certainly receive the highest consideration coming from a leader of a great country. The French president addressed his Israeli audience immediately upon his arrival Wednesday exhorting them "to place more trust" in their Palestinian peace partners whom he described as people who have suffered so much and whom, he said, Israel must understand better than anybody else.

Mr. Mitterrand brings to us an immense wealth of experience in the European and world politics and a deep-rooted knowledge of the problems and conflicts of the Middle East. His words of advice will surely complement this efforts with the Israelis to have greater confidence in the ability and willingness of the peoples of the region to live together in permanent peace and security. He is a most welcomed guest and a very respected statesman. Whatever he says in public or in private deserves all the attention and care.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDANIAN DAILY newspapers Friday welcomed a visit to Jordan by French President Francois Mitterrand, expressing hope that France and the rest of the European Community countries will assume a more positive role in helping the countries of the Middle East attain peace and stability. The French president's visit to Jordan, said Al Rai Arabic daily, assumes a great significance in view of the fact that Amman and Paris hold quite similar views with regard to a settlement to the Palestine problem and on other issues that have been plaguing the region for so long. Referring to Mr. Mitterrand's statements at a press conference in Israel Thursday, the paper said that it is clear that Paris supports the involvement of the PLO in the peace-making process and the establishment of a Palestinian state. There is no doubt that the French president and King Hussein will be advocating a more serious role on the part of Europe towards settling the Arab Israeli conflict, the paper said. It said that Paris and Amman hold similar views about the need for the PLO to participate in the ongoing peace efforts, about the establishment of a Palestinian state and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights. Therefore, Jordan welcomes the French president, hoping that discussions in these fields will widen bilateral cooperation in economic, cultural, technical and other fields and pave the way for a more fruitful relationship, said the paper.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour commented on the outcome of a U.N. Security Council debate on sanctions imposed on Iraq, accusing the Kuwaiti rulers of being behind the continued embargo. The sanctions imposed on Iraq are more of Kuwait's making than of Mr. Bush and Mr. Major, and it is the Kuwaiti regime which deserves the curse of history, said Taher Al Udwan. The writer said that Tareq Aziz's failure to secure an end to the sanctions was expected simply because of the Gulf countries' attitude and because Mr. Bush is still in the White House supporting the Kuwaitis and their allies. Mr. Bush is the faithful servant of the world oil companies, protecting their interests in the region, and as long as he ensures a flood of oil at cheap prices on world markets, he is supported by the Gulf states and the oil companies, said the writer. Mr. Aziz did not go to the Security Council begging, but as a true Arab, pointing to the errors committed by the world community against his country and to the fact that such an embargo is harmful to mankind, said the writer. It is for Israel, which hates to see a rising Arab power and for protecting America's oil interests, that Mr. Bush launched his aggression on the Iraqi people, the writer added. He said that as long as the Arabs harbour such evil rulers like those in Kuwait, who sold themselves out to the devil, the world is bound to see further atrocities.

Do not overlook Jordan's move to democracy

By Linda S. Adams

DURING ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's U.S. summer visit, President George Bush explained that he had reversed his position and approved a \$10 billion loan guarantee in part because Israel was "a democracy surrounded by countries that aren't."

It is true that most of Israel's neighbours are not democratic; in fact, as Mr. Bush knitted together a multinational coalition to oust Iraq from Kuwait and protect the oil fields of Saudi Arabia, he avoided justifying it as an attempt to restore democracy, since each of these neighbours are hereditary monarchies not committed to democratic principles.

Two closer neighbours also fail to meet the democratic standard, but were considered vital coalition partners. Egypt was so important that Mr. Bush forgave its \$7 billion debt to the United States. While Egypt does hold elections, President Hosni Mubarak has held office for the past 11 years and has been the only candidate in each of his political contests.

Israel's northern neighbour, Syria, is ruled by a man some consider to be even more ruthless than Saddam Hussein. In the most recent "elections," President Hafez Al Assad managed to accumulate over 99 per cent of the vote.

But Syria was so important to the multinational coalition that the Bush administration turned a blind eye when Mr. Assad's military crushed a demonstration against the coalition, an act that killed scores of Syrian citizens.

Since Kuwait's liberation, the U.S. president has not pressed for political reform in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt or Syria. Ironically, while those Arab states who joined in the U.S.-led coalition do fit Mr. Bush's description as "non-democratic" neighbours of Israel, the one state that remained neutral in the crisis is moving towards democratisation.

Long before Operation Desert Storm, and even before the collapse of the Soviet Union, the nation of Jordan began a process of political reform.

While condemning Iraq's action, the Jordanian government

followed the wishes of its people in calling for a peaceful solution to the crisis. As a consequence, Jordan, a long-time friend of the United States, was castigated by the Bush administration and accused of siding with the Iraqi president.

This summer I travelled to Amman to examine Jordan's political liberalisation. I found a country that has suffered enormously since the Gulf crisis but remains committed to democratisation.

In place now are political parties, free and open elections, a representative parliament, and a press that freely criticises the government. While its democracy is young and fragile, Jordan has made significant progress.

At the same time, the government faces many challenges. Jordan's population swelled by 10 per cent during the Gulf crisis, as Palestinians and Jordanians expelled from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia sought refuge in Jordan. The cost of resettling these returnees has been enormous for a country with scarce resources.

In my conversations with His Majesty King Hussein, he credited democratic calm in Jordan during the war, noting that it "was one of the causes of the survival of Jordan under some of the most extreme difficulties this country has ever faced."

George Bush's implication that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East is incorrect. As King Hussein pointed out "there is another one on the Arab side as well."

For King Hussein, democracy throughout the Middle East "is the only guarantee for ensuring that individuals will not destroy each other and their countries."

For now, the King and the government's "sole concern" is "to consolidate the foundations on which democracy exists" in Jordan. For the sake of real peace in this turbulent region, the U.S. government should encourage the type of reforms Jordan has vigorously pursued.

Dr. Linda Adams, a Baylor University political science professor, recently studied political reform in Jordan on a grant from Baylor. The article is reprinted from the Waco Tribune-Herald.

Disaster looming in Iraq on Somalia scale, warns U.N. official

By Norma Holmes

WASHINGTON — Internal blockades of food and emergency supplies to Kurdish populations in Northern Iraq now threaten a disaster "on the scale of Bosnia or Somalia," United Nations Special Rapporteur Max Van der Stoep warned Nov. 23. "We are confronted with... a race against time."

In a U.S. Information Agency Worldnet discussion on human rights abuses in Iraq, Mr. Van der Stoep told journalists in Amman, Abu Dhabi and Riyadh that on Nov. 24 he would release a report to the United Nations General Assembly "in the hope that the various governments represented in the United Nations will realise the seriousness of the situation."

Characterising the human rights situation in Iraq as "abysmal," Mr. Van der Stoep pointed out that "here we have one of the most oil-rich states of the world and still tens of thousands of Kurds are in danger of freezing to death."

"This is an intolerable situation, not just an absurd one," he asserted. Mr. Van der Stoep said the Iraqi government's continuing refusal to avail itself of the opportunity to sell up to \$900 million in oil products to purchase food and medicine for its civilian population "constitutes an internal embargo" and has resulted in a deterioration of the health situation in Iraq.

"The only way to avoid a new disaster in the face of an approaching winter," he said, is for the Iraqi government to fulfill its promises and give maximum unrestricted and especially rapid assistance in efforts to get emergency food and oil supplies to the north.

"I can only appeal to the Iraqi government to give maximum cooperation," he added. And "if it would fail to give maximum cooperation, it will be directly responsible for the deaths of thousands of people," Mr. Van der Stoep warned.

The United Nations official noted that his is but the latest in a continuing series of protests and appeals from the international community. The United Nations commission on human rights and the United Nations General Assembly repeatedly expressed deep concerns, and the United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 688 of April 1992, demanded that the Iraqi government end its policy of repression in order to bring stability to the region.

Mr. Van der Stoep said the worst incidents of abuse took place in the quelling of the uprisings in Iraq in the spring of 1991, "but the repression continues. People who dare to disagree with the government are not safe."

Asked for specific examples of human rights violations, Mr. Van der Stoep said "disappearances have taken place on a massive scale. People are arrested and nobody ever heard of them again."

"I am thinking of people who have been killed without even a due process of law simply because the regime didn't trust them," he added. Moreover, he said during the regime's struggle against the Kurds, "there have been instances of chemical attacks on villages which cost many, many, many lives."

Asked if Iraq has accounted for Kuwaitis held after the Gulf war, Mr. Van der Stoep said it has been impossible to obtain any information on the missing Kuwaitis. He said the International Committee of the Red Cross has tried to find out more because Kuwaiti prisoners of war "lists" are still considered to be in Iraq.

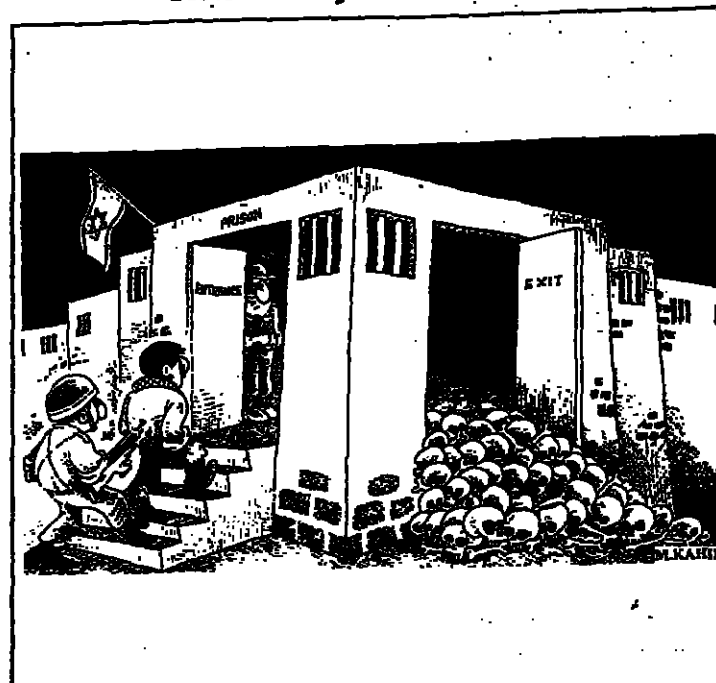
"Unfortunately, as far as I'm aware, all these efforts have been to no avail. This all remains a mystery, what has happened to these people."

"Human lives do not seem to be of value in Iraq. People who disagree with the government might have to pay with their lives," United States Information Agency.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Paris could push for more European involvement in Mideast peace talks

Reviewed By Elia Nasrallah



Jordanian dailies last week gave prominence to a visit to Jordan, this week, by the French president and highlighted the questions related to Iraq, the Middle East, Kuwait and a host of domestic issues.

Welcoming President Mitterrand's visit to Jordan, a columnist in Al Dustour daily said that Amman and Paris hold similar views on most of the topics to be discussed this week.

Hamadeh Farraneh said that Jordan also looks forward to further bolstering relations which can help deal with the region's questions. The writer expressed hope that Paris, working within the European Community, will also bring forth a more serious European role in handling world affairs, which include Iraq and Lebanon, and end U.S. hegemony.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Jordan is linked with France through economic and trade ties which are bound to witness more development as a result of the visit. Jordan has always called for more positive involvement in the Middle Eastern affairs and it is hoped that Mr. Mitterrand's visit to the region this time will convince him of the need for such an important role, said the daily.

Mahmoud Al Rimawi, a columnist in Al Rai, noted with deep satisfaction Mr. Mitterrand's recent statements on the Middle East question. The French president has demanded that the Palestinians have their rights and their own independent state within the framework of an overall settlement, noting France's readiness, within the European community to help the various parties arrive at peace, said Mahmoud Al Rimawi. Rimawi said that the French president is to be commended for his demand that the PLO should play a key role in the current peace negotiations.

Al Rai Arabic daily discussed the Middle East question in the light of recent statements by Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin and said that Mr. Rabin's statements about his determination to pursue the negotiations with the Arabs were not enough.

It is not enough to hear words without actions and it is not logical to believe what the

Israelis say as their actions contradict their statements, said the daily.

It said that Mr. Rabin's statements about peace with the Arabs contradict his delegation's intransigence at the peace negotiations and the Jewish state's continued atrocities against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands.

Writing in Al Rai daily, columnist Abdul Rahim Omar said that most of the Palestinians are determined to support peace efforts on condition that they ensure the return of their rights and usurped lands since 1948.

He noted that in the light of the Israeli intransigence it is no wonder that those supporting the continuation of negotiations are becoming less than those supporting the process. Taher Al Udwan said in Al Dustour that the Arab parties went to the negotiating table in order to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions and not to reach separate treaties with Israel.

The self-rule offered to the Palestinians was aborted and so was the Israeli offers to the Jordanians and to the Syrians over the Golan Heights, said the writer. He said that through these offers Israel had sought to reach separate agreements, avoiding comprehensive settlement.

The Jordanians were not

surprised by Kuwait's reaction to King Hussein's speech which exposed the facts to the Arab and Islamic Nations about the Gulf crisis, said Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab.

Commenting on the current hostile campaign launched by Kuwait's media against Jordan, the writer said that the speech exposed the conspiracies of the Kuwaiti rulers, in collusion with colonial powers, to clamp the Arab World under colonial influence.

The Kuwait rulers, who are blinded by their hatred of Arab and Islamic nations, had wanted Jordan's army to join the foreign powers' troops in Haifa Al Baten and attack the Iraqi people in order to save Kuwait's oil for the Kuwaiti rulers.

He said that it was not enough for the Kuwait rulers to demand that Jordan join the foreign forces imposing an embargo on the Iraqi people, it also asked Jordan to participate in a conspiracy to partition Iraq.

The hysterical campaigns being waged against Jordan in Kuwait, said Sawt Al Shaab daily, indicate that the Kuwaiti rulers have lost their minds and their direction.

The paper said the King Hussein's recent speech has exposed the evil — doings of

the rulers who continue to inject any bids to end in differences and he among the Arab leac paper said that while continues the drive to return of Arab solid Kuwaitis continue th to further divide the Muslims through the ment and actions.

In the light of th U.N. Security Council to maintain the on Iraq, a columnist Dustour said that A Islamic countries are responsible for this.

Some Arab coun bringing the foreign maintain such an emi the Iraqi people, said mad Kawash, adding Jordanian people will to support the Iraqi the face of such atroc will continue to suppi sovereignty and terri integrity in the face of acies.

It seems that the Council is determined more deaths among people through ma the embargo on Ir Tareq Masarweh in daily.

The writer said tha of the situation, Iraq refuse any inspectio and it has the right t that it was not cor with the council any long as the sanctions Arab countries shoul the help of their b Iraq by urging the e end the sanctions, or hand, and by taking step in terminating on the other.

Commenting on th Department's decisio tain inspection of veld roads in Jordan, a col Al Dustour said he th that the police and o cerned departments w attention to "the con the roads because responsible for mar accidents.

Salameh Ekour sai spite the reassurances officials to the cont ment is hard to find i markets. The writer seems that a real tra going on, with the certy selling a tonne s while merchants sell it on the black market.

Taiwan: Opening up and arming at the same time

TAIPEI — It is a paradox which defines a bigger paradox. Taiwan's businessmen are rushing helter-skelter to shift production to mainland China where labour costs are low. Money, people and goods are moving across the Taiwan Strait (via Hong Kong) in increasing volume. Yet in the past few weeks the government in Taipei has concluded deals to buy 210 fighter planes worth some \$8 billion from the United States and France to protect itself from the compatriots across the Strait.

These are spectacular deals by any standard, and particularly for a territory of 20 million people, albeit with exchange reserves of \$80 billion.

In the supplier countries, these deals are viewed in the context of job creation or of impact on relation with China. But whatever their motives they have a profound significance not just for Taiwan but also for East Asia. The fact is that although East Asia is the world's focus of trade and investment growth, it is also the focus of the biggest arms race in the world.

In this connection, the aircraft sales should be welcomed for their modest contribution to righting a dangerous and fast growing imbalance. They are in fact long overdue. They would have happened years ago but for the blind enthusiasm, whether driven by greed or by idealism, that has characterised western, and especially American, responses to the Deng regime. As with Iraq's opposition to Iranian fundamentalism, so China's

obeisances towards the marketplace have gained it favours beyond number.

Taiwan had been trying to buy modern planes to replace an aging fighter fleet since Jimmy Carter was in the White House. That it has succeeded, it seems at first sight, due more to a coincidence of factors than to any great change in strategic perceptions by the vendors. One determining factor appears to have been the election needs of George Bush — delivering job security to General Dynamics workers in Texas.

France's decision (still not officially confirmed) appears to have been a consequence of the dire commercial straits of Mirage maker Dassault. The deal is probably even bigger than so far mentioned. Sources in Taiwan suggest that there is an option on another 60 Mirages, but both sides are proceeding cautiously, trying to limit the inevitable Peking threats of retaliation.

The United States appears irritated that Taiwan has opted for the Mirage 2000s as well as the F-16s. The French planes are closer to state-of-the-art technology than anything the United States has been prepared to offer. Although the Mirages will be delivered first, the F-16s are of an older design. Another source of annoyance to the United States is that Washington, which has long treated Taipei as a puppet on a string will lose the leverage of being its sole warplane supplier.

American irritation is partly real but may be partly

ly for effect. After all, both the United States and France are contributing to the other key feature of Taiwan's defence buildup — its plans to buy, lease or build up to 30 frigates to strengthen the island's naval capability.

Two other European countries, Germany and the Netherlands, hope for contracts to expand Taiwan's submarine fleet from two to six or nine by the end of the decade. The Dutch would probably have done a deal already but for hopes of a big Fokker plane deal with Peking.

As for the United States, its policy seems to be shifting away from Peking even before President Bush leaves the White House. The Nov. 19 announcement of an impending visit by a cabinet-rank U.S. official, Trade Representative Carla Hills, suggests that Washington may now be putting commerce before China politics in its dealings with Taiwan.

It is not clear how far the West may be driven by a need for arms contracts at any price, a waning of infatuation with China market prospects or an acknowledgement that East Asian imbalances should not continue to grow. Taiwan has the additional lure of a mammoth civil infrastructure programme now under way. Bonn, which in recent years had kept Taipei at a distance, last week sent Economics Minister Jürgen Möllemann on a mission to drum up business.

But whatever the motives, only China is likely to object to the arms deals. In

Taiwan the fighter ases are especially — even more so an opposition — des high cost. In Jap among the ASEAN there is some concer the arms buildup in gion, but no on Taiwan as a threa antidote to China's ability to project its tarily is likely to l come.

Not only has Peh year been emphasiz claims to the whole China Sea, it is gr acquiring the means force those claims sh wish to. This na frightens all the othe al states China's acq of SU-27 long-range ers means it can ext air reach all ove claimed sea. If it succ its ambition to acqui far half-built aircraft from Ukraine, it further underline claims.

There is the pos that China may us Taiwan sales as aq for further spending own on sophisti weapons. But Taiw probably not to Peking's list of str priorities.

The threat to inva island if Taiwan de independence may w for real, but no one, b Taiwan expects Tai take that gamble weapons are essent protect the status quo factio independence strengthen its hand i gaining with the ma should reunification closer to reality — In tional Herald Tribu

Features

King welcomes

(Continued from page 1)

son is ignored. Mitterrand said the current talks are "something tangential to the peace process, but we have to continue the dialogue." Mitterrand said at the banquet that the return of Arab to the Gulf is a major step towards a settlement to the Israeli conflict "and our belief is the best evidence for peace."

Mitterrand said Jordan is a key to any settlement to the Israeli conflict "and our belief is the best evidence for peace." Mitterrand said at the banquet that the return of Arab to the Gulf is a major step towards a settlement to the Israeli conflict "and our belief is the best evidence for peace."

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Karak elections

(Continued from page 1)

Arabs in Karak, all those who own property in the city, regardless of their location of their residence, are eligible voters. The estimated 1,800-2,000 voters are expected to Department of their votes. Unlike the 1989 elections, which were split, Christian votes are expected to go almost entirely to the Solidarity list. A maximum of two thirds of the "Palestinian" vote is expected to go to the Karak list, according to a Palestinian source in Karak. Palestinians in Karak have traditionally had candidates in favour of the Islamic movement, but in the last election they have chosen to support the Solidarity list. Among them who were expected to abstain or vote in favour of the Solidarity list, while Islamic factions no visible presence, the political scene has been influenced by Islamic trends.

Political observers who say that Karak is a base of pan-Arab and tribalism say that the results of 1989 parliamentary elections were proof of the Islamic weakness in the town.

France reaffirms

(Continued from page 1)

that Mr. Mitterrand met PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat in Jordan. Mr. Husseini said the change of Israeli government last June from the hardline Likud administration of Yitzhak Shamir to the more conciliatory Labour cabinet headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was not always felt in the talks.

"Sometimes we hear Mr. Rabin at the table but usually it is the spirit of Shamir which hovers over the talks," he said.

Jakarta to increase wood exports

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia plans to increase wood exports despite trade barriers and efforts by environmentalists to end the traffic in tropical timber.

"Of course we expect a rise in exports ... the protests and the world's economic recession will not affect our sales. Nor will the trade barriers. These are some-

thing we have to fight and win," Indonesia's timber king Bob Hasan has said. Mr. Hasan, known to be close to President Suharto, heads the major business associations covering the plywood, rattan and timber industries. Members of three environmental groups, including Green-

peace, recently blocked a shipment of Indonesian plywood on its way to Hollywood film sets to protest against the destruction of tropical rain forests. "Such boycotts are old-fashioned ... consumers know our plywood is the most efficient, otherwise they won't use it," Mr. Hasan told Reuters.

Indonesia exports about one million cubic metres of hardwood plywood to the United States, which itself produces around 25 million cubic metres of softwood plywood. Indonesia's export of timber products is the country's major earner after oil and gas.

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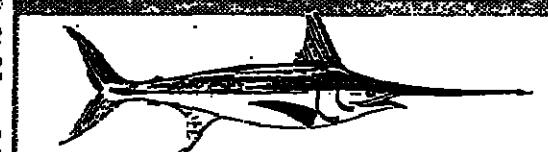
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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Al Jallil upset Al Ahli 71-39

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Jallil Thursday scored an unexpected win of 71-39 over Al Ahli in the second round of the under-22 basketball championship. The first half ended 37-19 for Al Jallil. In another match Al Orthodoni beat Al Hussein 91-70. Both matches were played at the Yarmouk University court.

Napoli want Maradona suspended

NAPLES (R) — Napoli want the Italian Football Federation to press for the immediate suspension of Diego Maradona, saying that his new club Sevilla was in breach of contract. A statement issued by Napoli's board Friday said Sevilla had failed to meet a deadline for depositing financial guarantees for the \$4.5 million outstanding on Maradona's transfer payment and that the deal had therefore fallen through. The board decided to call on the FIGC (Italian Football Federation) ... to declare the transfer invalid and secure the immediate suspension of the player from Sevilla, a Napoli statement said.

Cantona may start United career on bench

LONDON (R) — Frenchman Eric Cantona may have to wait to make his full debut for Manchester United following his surprise 1.2 million pounds sterling (\$1.82 million) transfer from Leeds United Thursday. Cantona looks set to start on the substitutes' bench for Saturday's English Premier League match against second-placed Arsenal, ironically the opponents he would have faced last week had Leeds not dropped him. One of the reasons the French international left Leeds was his desire to be a regular first-choice player, rather than an intermittent influence in the number 12 shirt.

Jarryd, Fitzgerald beat top seeds

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Defending champions Anders Jarryd and John Fitzgerald scored a straight set victory Thursday over top seeds Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge at the ATP World Doubles Championships. Jarryd, of Sweden, and Fitzgerald, of Australia, the fourth seeds this year after topping the ATP standing in 1991, won a hard-fought 7-5, 7-6 (7-4) victory dominated by strong serving over the Australian duo. In other action, second-seeded Americans Jim Gradd and Richey Keneberg defeated their third seeded compatriots Rick Leach and Kelly Jones 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-5). Seventh seeds Emilio Sanchez and Sergio Casal of Spain defeated sixth seeds Wally Masare and Mark Kratzmann of Australia 6-4, 7-6 (8-9) in the evening's final match. The \$1 million tournament features the top eight doubles teams from the ATP tour competing for a possible top prize of \$325,000.

Milan sound warning to European Cup rivals

LONDON (R) — AC Milan, led by a glorious four-goal performance from Marco Van Basten, have clearly sounded their intentions of claiming the European Cup once again.

Their 4-0 demolition of Swedish champions IFK Gothenburg Wednesday left them looking imperiously down on the rest of Europe's nobility after just one match in the semifinal league series.

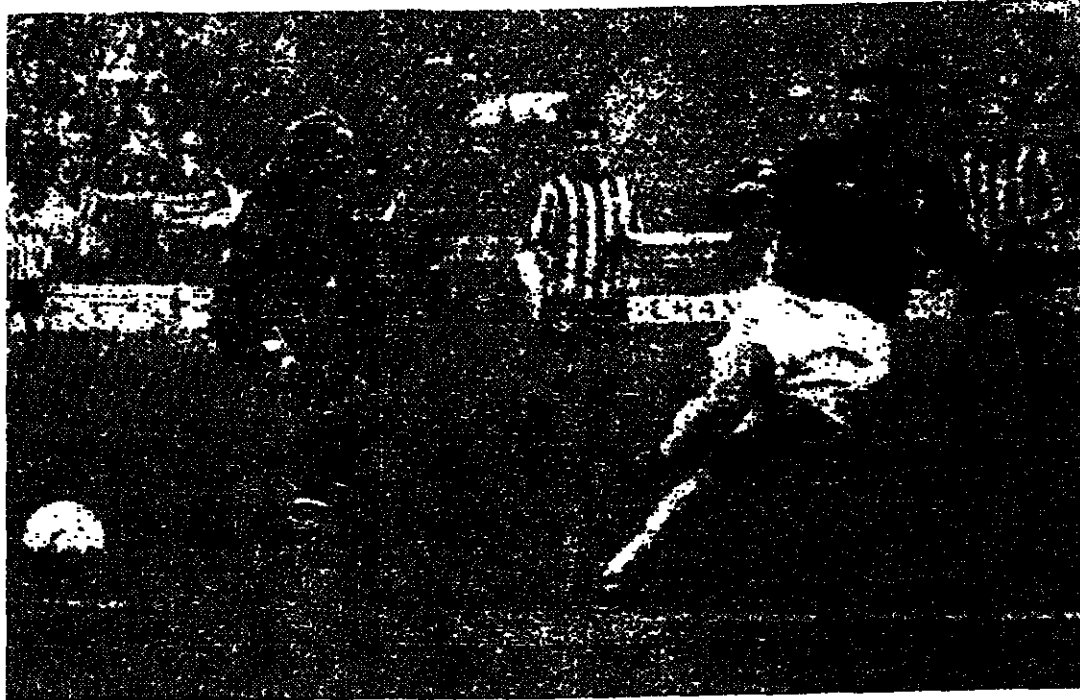
Unbeaten in 44 league matches, Milan swept aside the latest opposition to stand in their way of reclaiming the crown of European soccer they won in 1989 and 1990 and took their goal total to 16 without response in their campaign.

More ominously, none of the other seven national champions in the two groups produced a performance which suggested they could stop a Milan juggernaut intent on making up for a year in the wilderness after being banned for walking off against Marseille in the 1991 European Cup quarter-finals.

Marseille, who lost in the final to Red Star Belgrade that year and are favourites to oppose Milan in the final, carelessly let a precious away victory against Glasgow Rangers contort into a draw by conceding two goals in the last 12 minutes.

And CSKA Moscow failed to reproduce the form that saw them dispose of reigning champions Barcelona in Spain in the last round as Club Brugge beat them 1-0 in Belgium.

Porto and PSV Eindhoven, European champions in 1987 and



Milan star Marco Van Basten scores the fourth goal for his team against Sweden's Gothenburg. Milan won 4-0, with Van Basten scoring all four goals.

1988 respectively, both showed fighting spirit in their 2-2 draw in Portugal, but also displayed weaknesses that could be cruelly exposed by Milan, whose group they share.

Van Basten, whose four-goal haul took his tally in the tournament to six, still tried to sound a cautious note.

"It's obviously a very special night for me but we must not get too carried away as there are five more matches to go in the

group," said the Dutchman, who has now scored 18 times in 13 appearances for Milan.

PSV, who must vie with Milan for a place in the final from Group B, will consider their draw in Oporto a point lost rather than won as they led with 15 minutes remaining.

But the dismissal of international defender Adrie Van Tiggelen for the second time in five days led directly to Porto's equaliser.

Marseille were left in the same situation in Group A, rueing the loss of a precious away point after dominating the game against Rangers only to see victory slip away with some slack defending in the closing minutes.

Croatian midfielder Alen Boksic and German striker Rudi Voeller had put Marseille 2-0 up, before substitute Gary McSwegen scored with his first touch and Englishman Mark Hateley equalised with seven minutes to go.

Sainz and Moya triumph again

CHESTER, England (R) — On the face of it, world rally champions Carlos Sainz and Luis Moya seem an unlikely partnership.

For one thing, Sainz supports his home town soccer club Real Madrid while co-driver Moya is more a fan of their Spanish arch-rivals Barcelona and Deportivo Coruna.

"Similar? No, I think he is the total opposite to me," said Sainz after winning his second world title Wednesday at the British RAC Rally. "He is more exciting than me, I think I am a little bit calmer."

Put the two Spaniards together in a rally for travelling at breakneck speeds over muddy forest tracks and ice and the potential for friction between them would appear to be very real.

In fact, despite Moya's known love of jokes, parties and having fun, the Toyota team mates make one of the most effective duos in motor sport.

"I know more about him than my wife. I ought to get married to him," Moya joked after spraying team officials and bystanders with champagne at the finish.

"He is a very good friend and you have to be to spend so many hours together a day in the same

car."

Together in 1990 they became the first Spaniards to win the world title, taking the British RAC Rally in the process — an event previously only ever won by Nordic and British drivers.

"It is one of my favourites," Sainz said Wednesday. "We have competed here six times, finished six times, won twice and come second twice."

The 30-year-old Sainz drove a superbly controlled race as his rivals Didier Auriol of France and reigning champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland dropped out of the running.

Sainz led from the first stage, briefly relinquished the lead to Britain's Colin McRae at the end of day two and then reasserted his authority.

"It was a dream come true," Sainz said after finishing two minutes 16 seconds ahead of race runner-up Ari Vatanen of Finland, the 1984 winner, in a Subaru.

"Three months ago it didn't seem possible that we could win the championship," he added.

Those were frustrating times for the Spaniards as Auriol enjoyed an incredible run of six wins which looked sure to give him the title.

English Classic winners get good draw in Japan

TOKYO (R) — English Classic winners User Friendly and Dr. Devious received a boost ahead of Sunday's group one Japan Cup horse race by getting a low draw.

They will start in first and fifth positions respectively, the organisers announced Friday.

Low draws give a slight advantage if horses break quickly.

User Friendly, British bookmakers' midweek first choice for Japan's only major international horse race of the year, was quoted by a major Japanese sports daily Friday at 3-1.

But the filly, who won the English Oaks and St. Leger and finished second to Subotica in last month's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, has a tough job to break a jinx on fancied foreign runners.

The most heavily-favoured have all faded in the past 11 Japan Cups at the Tokyo racecourse.

Trainer Clive Brittain, who won the cup with Jupiter Island six years ago, said: "Over the years, the quality of the horses taking part in the Japan Cup has increased. It's definitely higher than before."

User Friendly's owner William Greedy said he saw the colt Dr. Devious as the major threat: "he has won the English Derby, so I personally feel that Dr. Devious will be one of the dangers."

Australian-trained Let's Elope was quoted at 7-2 by local sports

dailies. Dr. Devious 4-1 and Japan's ace Tokai Teio, seeking to be the first home winner since 1985, 5-1.

Let's Elope will be in the number 10 position for the 12-furlong (2.4 km) race, worth 169 million yen (\$1.36 million) to the winner.

Compatriot Naturalism, a four-year-old bay colt, drew a middle seventh position and was quoted at 11-1.

"I must say the two Australian horses are just fresh starting the season out. The European horses are probably on the wane now although we feel that half of them is still in good form," said Brittain.

Dr. Devious may have peaked because he ran five races after winning the Derby in June and finished fourth to fraise in last month's Breeders' Cup Turf race in Florida.

Dear Doctor, drawn ninth, ridden by Cash Asmussen and quoted at 7-1, has emerged as a dark horse after beating favourite Sky Classic to win the Arlington Million and finishing second to Solar Splendor in the Man O'War Stakes in September.

"I think it's about time to win another Japan Cup because I won the first Japan Cup... I think most of the Japanese think I'm a one-time man," said Asmussen, who rode Mairzy Boates to win the 1981 race.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Four

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As Mars goes retrograde this afternoon you find yourself in the midst of many surface problems but still able to move forward toward your immediate aims. Ignore the small annoyances.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day for you to get into specific items of whatever duties face you whether of a personal or a business nature and quickly put them in back of you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can now make the arrangements for the various pleasures and entertainments in which you wish to shortly engage with a minimum of effort.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take a day off from other conditions to see that your own residence is spick and span, in good repair and operating with more efficiency.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have the chance to get whatever outside chores requiring your personal attention done in a sensible and conscientious fashion.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take a good look at your property and possessions and you now have an excellent day to make the repairs, changes that will add to operative skills.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can be as personal as you

like today in getting you your surroundings in the condition, then find new do so.

LIBRA: (September 23 to 22) Behind the scenes and tasks to do should occupy attention this day and whatever can hold up your progress in the future.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to 21) Consider well all the specific effort you set out to gain those longed are most vital to your progress in the future.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to 21) There are civic matters or other interest you can get right today by concentrating up in a detailed fashion.

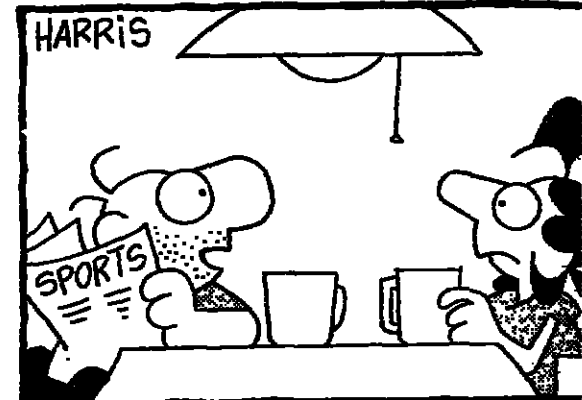
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to 21) A very good consider just where and most wish to extend your aim to get all factors lay such projects.

AQUARIUS: (January 22 to 21) Consider well all statements, reports, accounts you do and what will in back of you and free your time consuming duties.

PISCES: (February 22 to 21) A day to make sure you in detail with any part specifics of where you are and how you can best at mutual aims.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GULIE

LINTE

ENSTEW

SOUXED

Now arrange the circled letters from the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: O O O O O O O O O O

Yesterday's Jumble: CREEL NUDE KERNEL UNFAIR

Answer: Another name for nepotism — KINFUENCY

THE Daily Crossword by Hugh M. Cleveland

ACROSS

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2. Copycat
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De Klerk offers 1994 date for multiracial polls

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The African National Congress (ANC) says 1994 is too long to wait for ending white minority rule, and rejects President F.W. de Klerk's timetable for elections in 16 months.

While serious differences remain, the ANC and the white government are getting closer to setting a date for the first elections that would include the country's 30 million black majority.

Mr. De Klerk, in a major announcement Thursday, offered to end centuries of white domination with a multiracial poll for an interim government in March or April of 1994.

The ANC, the leading black group, swiftly denounced the plan as "totally unacceptable." But earlier this week, the ANC called for an election in nine to 12 months — only a few months earlier than Mr. De Klerk's proposal.

Before an election date can be set, the government, the ANC and other opposition parties will have to reach a series of agreements in a new round of multiparty talks. The last session collapsed in June amid bitter recriminations.

"The real negotiations haven't even begun," said Business Day, the country's leading financial daily. "After nearly two years of alternating between ecstasy and despair, those with volatile political temperaments face probably two more years of the same."

Ordinary South Africans, used to the ups and downs of the country's turbulent politics, did

not appear particularly excited by Mr. De Klerk's plan.

"Everybody is uncertain of where they are going and what's happening," said Anil Nathoo, an Indian shop owner in central Johannesburg.

Nonetheless, Mr. De Klerk's announcement Thursday was a clear sign that he expects the talks involving 19 parties to resume shortly.

"I'm convinced that the programme set out is attainable," Mr. De Klerk said at a news conference in Pretoria, the capital. "We cannot turn back, we cannot get bogged down."

The ANC routinely denounces Mr. De Klerk's political proposals minutes after they are uttered. But with the reform process stalled, the black movement has become increasingly pragmatic and appears more willing than before to cut a deal with the white government.

The two parties plan to hold extensive bilateral talks soon, which should help clear the way for multiparty discussions by early next year.

And in a key policy shift, the ANC announced last week that a black-white power sharing government was likely in a post-apartheid South Africa.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela, speaking Thursday before Mr. De Klerk's announcement, said the ANC would likely win a South African election but may share power with the losers to prevent strife.

An elected interim government is virtually certain to include Mr.

De Klerk's National Party, the ANC, as well as several other parties, with all having a voice in decision making.

Mr. De Klerk's five-year term of office expires in September 1994, and that has been considered the deadline for reaching a black-white political settlement. However, Mr. De Klerk had not offered a date for multiracial elections until Thursday's announcement.

He cautioned that his timetable was flexible, and could be advanced or delayed depending on the progress of negotiations.

Even if elections take place in 1994 as Mr. De Klerk envisions, South Africa's transition to a full democracy would not be complete.

The elected interim government would write the country's new constitution. That process would be followed by a second election ushering in a new government.

Mr. De Klerk swiftly abolished apartheid laws after coming to power in 1989, but his constitutional reforms have stalled in the past year, and many blacks are increasingly disillusioned.

Political violence has killed some 9,000 blacks in the past three years, and much of the fighting involves the ANC and Inkatha, the second largest black group. The bitter rivals announced Wednesday they would hold a peace summit soon.

However, previous meetings have failed to slow the carnage among their supporters, many of whom are young activists beyond the control of their leaders.

Double defeat for Reynolds in Irish elections

DUBLIN (R) — Irish voters have inflicted a double defeat on Prime Minister Albert Reynolds, humiliating him in a general election and spurning his bid to lift Catholic Ireland's blanket ban on abortion.

Thirsting for change, they switched their loyalties to Labour leader Dick Spring who Friday demanded that he should be "rotating premier" in next coalition.

"Kingmaker" Spring broke the mould in Irish politics, dominated since independence by the two main parties, the right-of-centre Fianna Fail and Fine Gael.

A steady trickle of results being announced throughout Friday showed Labour set to double its share of deputies, though still in third place.

The final percentage tally was 39.1 per cent for Fianna Fail, 24.5 per cent for Fine Gael and 19.3 per cent for Labour. The rest went to smaller parties and independents.

When the labourious process of countless recounts is completed, that should translate into about 70 seats for Fianna Fail, 50 for Fine Gael and 30 for Labour.

Mr. Reynolds, fighting for his political life after Fianna Fail's worst result in 50 years, was also plunged into a legal morass by confused voters rejecting his referendum plan to allow abortion — but only for women whose lives are at risk.

The abortion proposal is likely to be resoundingly defeated by a 2-1 majority, party officials said. The knives will now be out for Mr. Reynolds who after just nine months in power could end up as Ireland's shortest-lived premier.

But he insisted: "I am not a quitter. There is no question of my throwing in the towel."

Mr. Spring, a former rugby international who is now Ireland's most popular politician, will hold the balance of power when the 166-seat parliament returns on Dec. 14 to pick a premier.

His price is high. "If you look at those figures, there is obviously a strong mandate for me to secure the office of Taoiseach (prime minister) and I will pursue that," he said.

MPs reject Russian reform plan

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's Supreme Soviet legislature Friday rejected the government's "anti-crisis" economic programme, dealing a blow to President Boris Yeltsin just four days before a crucial parliament session.

The legislature voted 137 to 20, with 13 abstentions, to reject the plan presented a day earlier by Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar.

The vote kept Mr. Yeltsin's administration on a collision course with the Congress of People's Deputies, the larger parliament that convenes Tuesday in the Kremlin.

All of the Supreme Soviet's 252 members also sit in the 1,042-member congress, the country's top legislative body, which is dominated by former Communists. The Supreme Soviet sets the agenda for the congress, and the congress generally follows the smaller legislature's lead.

Hardliners in the Supreme Soviet and congress want to slow Mr. Yeltsin's reforms and prevent the bankruptcy of large state industries. They have demanded the removal of Mr. Gaidar and some other ministers.

Mr. Yeltsin reshuffled his

cabinet this week in a concession to the parliament, but his opponents said they were not satisfied. Mr. Yeltsin needs to reach a compromise with the congress to win an extension of his power to issue decrees, which expires on Dec. 1.

Russian Economics Minister Andrei Nekhayev said Thursday that even if the Supreme Soviet did not accept the anti-crisis plan, Mr. Yeltsin's cabinet would present it to the congress.

"The final decision belongs to the congress," Mr. Nekhayev said.

The Supreme Soviet Friday also asked Yeltsin to nominate a candidate for prime minister at the congress. Mr. Yeltsin has never put Mr. Gaidar's position to a parliamentary vote.

When Mr. Gaidar presented the anti-crisis programme Thursday, he billed it as a compilation of plans by the government, opposition groups, and independent economic experts. However, the plan called for a continuation of Mr. Yeltsin's privatisation programme and other market-oriented reforms.

Mr. Gaidar specifically rejected opposition demands for a

wage and price freeze, and a partial return to central planning.

The acting prime minister also said the government would not risk higher inflation by printing more money. The Russian money supply already has increased several fold since January, and state bank Chairman Victor Gerashchenko said Thursday inflation is likely to hit 2,000 per cent this year.

"I think they will lose this fight," Mr. Gaidar told reporters Friday, referring to the parliamentary opposition.

In his cabinet changes this week, Mr. Yeltsin accepted the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Potomkin and eliminated the loosely defined post of state secretary, held by Gennady Burbulis. He immediately named Mr. Burbulis to the new post of head of the president's advisers.

Mr. Yeltsin also dismissed Yegor Yakovlev, the reformist former editor of the Moscow News, as head of the state television and radio company Ostankino. And he accepted the resignation of Eduard Dneprov as education minister.

Bhutto to resume march Thursday

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto will resume her "long march" aimed at ousting the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif next week, party officials said Friday.

They said the coalition of opposition parties led by the former prime minister planned to take their protest to central Punjab province, Mr. Sharif's power base.

Mrs. Bhutto launched her march last week to try to topple the government, which she accuses of corruption and rigging 1990 elections. She has not said how she plans to throw it out.

She will drive from Multan, cotton-growing centre of Punjab, next Thursday and stop to address rallies at towns along the route to the historic provincial capital of Lahore. The journey will take three days.

Thousands of supporters turned out when she led a train "crusade" from the southern port of Karachi this week. She arrived in Lahore Tuesday and went north to the industrial cities of Gujranwala and Gujrat Thursday.

The campaign began last week when Mrs. Bhutto and her supporters tried to march from Rawalpindi to parliament in Islamabad. Police broke up the march and later arrested hundreds of opposition supporters.

The opposition announced it was setting up a committee to investigate alleged police abuses against those detained.

On Thursday the government lifted a 30-day ban on Mrs. Bhutto's entry to Islamabad and Rawalpindi but she has refused to return until all her supporters are released.

Mr. Sharif said Thursday the hundreds of opposition activists taken into custody would be released soon. Mrs. Bhutto says thousands have been arrested and some tortured.

Fire destroys hall in Vienna's Hofburg Palace

VIENNA (R) — Fire gutted the Redoutensaal Hall in Vienna's Hofburg Palace Friday while the Austrian capital's renowned Lipizzaner stables, housed in stables below, were all led to safety, a Fire Department spokesman said.

More than 350 firemen fought for more than five hours to control the blaze in the grandiose Redoutensaal, which was built in the 18th century by Austrian Empress Maria Theresa.

"We can say that we have the fire fully under control, but we're still coping with small bursts of fire which are being spread by sparks by the high winds," the fire spokesman said.

More than 60 white Lipizzaner stallions and mares of the Vienna Spanish Riding School, a major tourist attraction, were led to safety, the spokesman added.

They were taken with the help of police and passers-by to the Hofburg Castle Park.

Firemen battled for hours to prevent the fire, fanned by the wind, from spreading to the roof of the adjacent National Library and its reading room, which houses one of the world's largest collections of rare books and manuscripts.

Police and library workers, who had answered a radio appeal for help, carried some 190,000

books and manuscripts from the ornate reading room to safety. Water was reported to have damaged the frescoes in the reading room.

"The damage is most likely to go into hundreds of millions of schillings (millions of dollars)," the Fire Department spokesman said.

The origins of the fire in the Redoutensaal, scene of numerous international disarmament and other conferences, were still unclear. But firemen said it was believed that it had been caused from smouldering remains after maintenance work in the attic of the wing late Thursday night.

German prosecutor holds 8 neo-Nazis

BONN (R) — Federal investigators Friday announced the arrests of eight teenage accomplices to a young German held on suspicion of forming a gang of neo-Nazis which firebombed refugee homes.

Federal prosecutor Alexander Von Stahl said in a statement the eight, aged 15 to 19, were arrested Wednesday as suspected members of 25-year-old Michael Peters's group.

The statement said investigators were still probing whether members of Mr. Peters's gang had taken part in Monday's fire-bombing of a Turkish home in Moelln near Hamburg in which three Kurds were killed.

Police said the wave of violence against foreigners continued with attacks Thursday night and Fri-

day morning against two refugee homes in western Germany, including one firebombing by six teenagers boys who say they hate foreigners.

Mr. Stahl said the eight suspects, including a 17-year-old girl, were being held on suspicion of attempted murder, attempted arson and disturbing the peace for their alleged roles in three incidents in September, the last two near Moelln.

Similar accusations were made against Mr. Peters Thursday. He was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of forming "a rightist terrorist organisation" with 10 other extremists and for possible links to the Moelln murders.

It was the first apparent breakthrough in solving the triple mur-

der, the most deadly in a string of 1,800 gang attacks on foreigners this year.

Mr. Stahl took over a Moelln inquiry from local police, pronouncing the attack a challenge to German democracy, after learning that anonymous callers had contacted the fire brigade to announce the arson and ending saying "Heil Hitler."

Meanwhile, police in the west German city of Gelsenkirchen said two firebombs were extinguished by guards and the other two burned out without causing damage in an attack Thursday night.

The culprits, aged 13 to 15, told police they attacked the home for Romanian and Yugoslav gypsies because they hated foreigners.

Queen Elizabeth offers to pay tax

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth has acted to quell mounting criticism and restore flagging public support for the British monarchy with an offer to pay tax on her personal income and remove minor royals from the public payroll. The gesture by the queen, tax-exempt until now and billed as one of the world's richest women, capped a tumultuous week for the royal House of Windsor — during which even supporters said that the monarchy was losing touch with the people.

The announcement of the initiative by Prime Minister John Major Thursday was widely welcomed as a fitting response to public pressure at a time when most Britons were feeling the pinch of a prolonged recession.

"Wham bam thank you, Ma'am" said the Daily Star newspaper. Some politicians said the changes did not go far enough. "What Britain needs is a monarchy with a modern constitution," said Robert MacLennan, home affairs spokesman for the opposition Liberal Democrats.

But the Times and the Daily Telegraph cautioned that the concessions should not open the way to changes so radical that they would destroy the mystique of the

1,000-year-old monarchy.

"At a stroke, the royal family is to become a little more like the rest of us," said the Daily Telegraph. "(but) if there was no magic, no gold leaf, ... then eventually the case for monarchy itself would become hard to make."

Estimates of the queen's private wealth, generating income as diverse as share dividends and winning from racehorses, range between £50 million (\$76 million) and £7 billion (\$10.6 billion).

It is not clear how much tax the queen will pay but Mr. Major told parliament arrangements were likely to be finalised in time for the new tax year next April. Unofficial estimates put the royal tax bill at up to £1 million (\$1.52 million) a month.

Her Prince Charles also volunteered to pay tax on his income and the queen proposed that she, rather than taxpayers, should fund the allowances of her other children Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, and her sister Princess Margaret.

Although Mr. Major said the queen had proposed the changes months ago, the timing invited speculation that the announcement was a response to a bad week in what the monarch herself has dubbed her "annus horribilis".

Latin for "horrible year."

All the queen's children, apart from bachelor Prince Edward, have endured marital difficulties. Prince Charles, who married Diana Spencer in 1981, was the nation on the front pages of Britain's popular press.

The marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana is reported to be in trouble, leading to predictions that they will soon lead separate lives.

But it was a row over a government pledge to foot the repair bill for last weekend's fire at Windsor Castle which enraged opinion and led to what is arguably the biggest break with royal tradition in the queen's 40-year reign.

Savings to the taxpayer from the reduction in the number of royals on the public payroll are expected to be less than £900,000 (\$1.37 million) a year.

The queen, whose annual allowance is £7.9 million (\$12 million), will continue to receive payment, as will her husband Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth the queen mother.

Commentators said the removal of minor royals from the pay list could be an attempt by the queen to make her children less of a target for tabloid newspapers which have portrayed lurid tales of their private lives as matters of public interest.

U.N. convoy to stranded Bosnia town again blocked by women and children

SKELANI, Serbia (R) — A jeering crowd of Serb women and children blocked a bridge Friday, thwarting a second attempt by a U.N. relief convoy to cross into Bosnia with supplies for the besieged town of Srebrenica.

The angry crowd, many brandishing staves, was led by the mother and sister of a 20-year-old Bosnian Serb killed in fighting with Muslim forces Thursday.

"My only son, my flower, died from the hand of the enemy," the weeping women shouted, adding: "We will kill them."

A 25-year-old man held up the

birth certificate and death notice of his 30-year-old brother, killed three months ago, and declared: "No pasaran (no way past)."

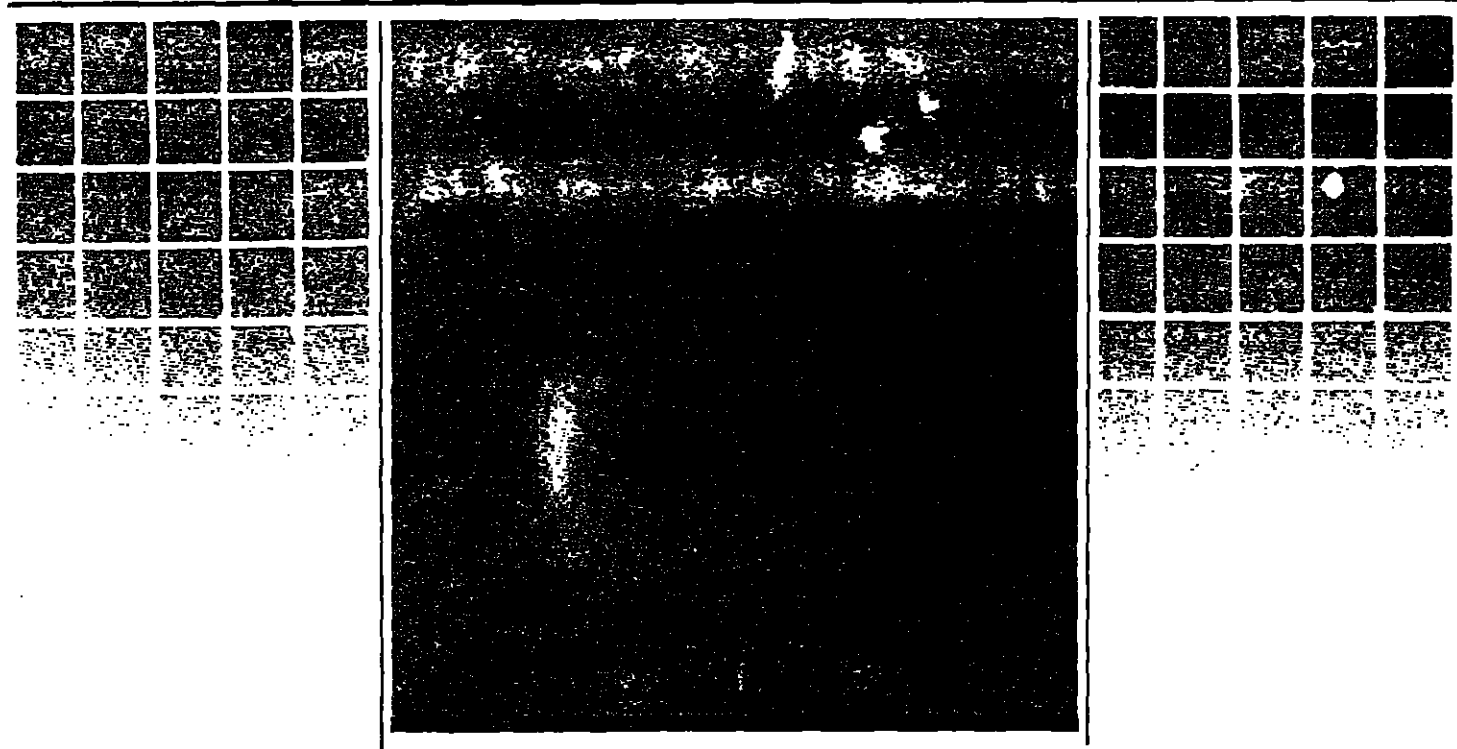
Local people said many of the demonstrators on the bridge linking Serbia with Serb-held Bosnia were Serb refugees whose homes had been razed during seven months of civil war in the former Yugoslav Republic.

A Bosnian Serb army officer crossed the bridge to tell U.N. troops he was in touch with army chief General Ratko Mladic, who promised Thursday that the convoy, the third to try to go to Srebrenica, would be allowed

through. "We will do everything in our power to control the people (on the bridge). We will find you a way to pass," the officer told the U.N. escort.

But he refused a request that his forces fire into the air to disperse the crowd.

The convoy of 22 trucks laden with food and children's clothing for the 70,000 people of Srebrenica, under Serb siege for seven months, tried the Skelani crossing over the Drina River after their first attempt to enter Bosnia was similarly blocked by women and children.



TECHNICAL BULLETIN # 1 FROM THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT / QUALITY CONTROL AT RUM METAL MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The European Standards for the manufacturing of gas cookers strictly ensure the following precaution.

The existence and use of two separate control knobs for baking and broiling is strictly forbidden when both functions exist within one confined compartment. If baking and broiling take place within one compartment there should only be one control knob allowing you to either bake or broil at one given time and therefore preventing the misuse of both functions simultaneously.

The one control knob system is designed to prevent baking and broiling simultaneously. It therefore prevents any excess gas leakage into one confined space which would result in a serious accident.

To ensure your own safety and that of your family, we strongly advise you to take note of this issue and purchase the one control knob gas cooker.

In the manufacturing of our products, we at RUM strictly abide by all international safety standards and we are confident that sooner or later you will own RUM.

The codes for the European standards are: Germany — 3360, England — 5386, Italy — 9135, Belgium — 04-001, France 32-321. 1993 European norms — 30.

For further information regarding this bulletin, please contact our quality control engineers at 722929.



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